

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The Listing of the Claims below replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium encoded with one or more data structures representing to represent an information collection comprising a body of law, the one or more data structures organizing the information collection and facilitating computer access from the computer readable medium of information relating to the body of law, the body of law comprising a plurality of topics and a plurality of parts, including parts that are different versions of each other, the one or more data structures including temporal information relating to the information collection, the encoded information collection comprising:

a body of law comprising one or more parts; and

an association of each part of the body of law, including different versions thereof, and at least one topic, the association comprising a hierarchical arrangement of topics of the body of law and parts of the body of law in which each part of the body of law and any different version thereof and the associated at least one topic are hierarchically associated;

an association of temporal information comprising one or more dates indicating the legal applicability of a respective part and of the legal applicability of any different version thereof and stored in association with respective parts of the body of law and comprising one or more dates indicating the legal applicability of the respective part of the body of law or respective different version thereof; and

the body of law comprising a plurality of topics each having associated therewith at least one part of the body of law and including information relating to the at least one part of the body of law, at least one of the topics having associated therewith a plurality of parts of the body of law that are different versions of each other and have different temporal information associated therewith.

an association of information relating to each part and version of the body of law and the at least one topic with which the respective part or version is associated.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Amended) A computer readable medium encoded with one or more data structures representing to represent an information collection comprising a body of law, the one or more data structures organizing the information collection and facilitating computer access from the computer readable medium of information relating to the body of law, the one or more data structures including temporal information relating to the information collection, the encoded information collection comprising:

~~a body of law comprising one or more unique information units, each information unit including at least one part of the body of law[[:]], including any different version of the at least one part, and a plurality of topical units, each comprising at least one topic within arranged in a scheme for organizing a plurality of interrelated topics, being stored in association with;~~

an association of each topical unit and the at least one information unit, each topical unit~~and~~ including information relating to the at least one information unit associated therewith;
and

an association of each information unit being stored in association with temporal information comprising one or more dates indicating the legal applicability of the at least one each part of the body of law and different version thereof and included in the respective information unit and at least one topical unit in which information unit the respective part and any different version thereof are included having associated therewith a plurality of information units that each include different versions of the same part of the body of law and have different temporal information associated therewith.

5. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 2, wherein ~~the information collection is structured so that~~ the one or more data structures enable computer access to a part or version of the body of law ~~can be accessed~~ based at least on the temporal information associated therewith.

6. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 4, wherein ~~the information collection is structured so that~~ the one or more data structures enable computer access to an information unit ~~can be accessed~~ based at least on the temporal information associated therewith.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 4, wherein ~~the information collection is structured so that~~ the one or more data structures enable computer access to an information unit ~~can be accessed~~ based at least on the temporal information associated therewith, ~~directly or through a topical unit with which that information unit is associated.~~

8. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 4, wherein the association of each information unit and temporal information comprises each information unit including ~~includes~~ the associated temporal information.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 4, ~~wherein~~ comprising at least one link ~~exists between~~ each information unit and the temporal information associated therewith.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 4, wherein each information unit comprises a structured document including a part or version of the body of law and the temporal information associated therewith.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 4, wherein ~~the representation of the information collection~~ one or more data structures comprises a relational database including records, and each information unit and the temporal information associated therewith are included in a respective record.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 4, wherein ~~the representation of the information collection~~ one or more data structures comprises a plurality of files, each file storing at least one information unit and ~~the its associated~~ temporal information associated therewith.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 4, wherein ~~the representation of the information collection~~ one or more data structures comprises a plurality of files, each file storing at least one topical unit, each information unit associated therewith, and the respective temporal information associated with each information unit associated therewith.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 4, wherein the ~~information collection~~ one or more data structures comprises a hierarchical arrangement of topical units and associated information units.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 4, wherein the association of the information ~~associated with a topical unit and~~ includes the temporal information associated ~~stored in association~~ with at least one of the information units associated with the respective topical unit comprises the topical unit including the temporal information.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 4, wherein the ~~information collection is hierarchically organized as~~ one or more data structures comprises a hierarchical organization comprising a topic tree that comprises a plurality of nodes, with each node representing one of the topical units, the tree having leaf nodes representing ~~atomic~~-topical units, each ~~atomic~~-topical unit being ~~[[a]]~~ an atomic topical unit that is not subdivided, and wherein each information unit associated with a respective topical unit is associated with the leaf node representing that topical unit.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 4, wherein the ~~information collection~~ the one or more data structures comprises at least one table of contents (TOC) associated with the ~~atomic~~-topical units, each TOC including a reference to each information unit associated with the respective ~~atomic~~-topical unit.

20. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 2 or 4, wherein the temporal information includes a date range.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 2, wherein the temporal information includes a date range, and wherein the one or more data structures enable computer access to information ~~collection is structured so that a part or version~~ of the body of law ~~can be accessed~~ based at least on a date encompassed by the date range associated with that part of the body of law.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 4, wherein the temporal information includes a date range, and wherein the one or more data structures enable computer access to information collection is structured so that an information unit ~~can be accessed~~ based at least on a date encompassed by the date range associated with that information unit.

23. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 2 or 4, wherein the temporal information comprises a date range including a date on which the related part of the body of law is effective, and, if that part of the body of law has a date of termination, the date of termination.

24. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 2, wherein the temporal information comprises at least one part of the body of law has associated therewith a date on which that part or version of the body of law ~~included~~ was adopted.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 4, wherein the temporal information comprises at least one information unit has associated therewith a date on which the part or version of body of law included in the respective information unit was adopted.

26. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 2 or 4, wherein the body of law includes at least one title of the United States Code.

27. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 2 or 4, wherein the body of law includes at least one title of the United States Code of Federal Regulations.

28. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 2 or 4, wherein the body of law includes at least one title of a codified set of laws of at least one state.

29. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium encoded with one or more data structures representing to represent an information collection comprising a body of law, the one or more data structures organizing the information collection and facilitating computer access from the computer readable medium of information relating to the body of law, the one or more data structures including temporal information relating to the information collection, the encoded information collection comprising:

a plurality of structured documents arranged in a hierarchy of documents comprising documents including a topic or topics of the body of law and documents including a part of the defining a body of law[[,]];

an association of each of the documents including a part of the body of law comprising a plurality of atomic parts, each atomic part being regarded for at least one purpose as indivisible, such that each atomic part is stored in association with and temporal information comprising one or more dates indicating the legal applicability of the respective atomic part[[;]], wherein a plurality of the atomic parts of the body of law comprises different versions of the same atomic part of the body of law each having different temporal information associated therewith; and

each atomic part and the document that includes a part of the body of law including any different version of that part of the body of law and the temporal information associated with the respective part or version therewith are included together in the same structured document.

30. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium encoded with one or more data structures representing to represent an information collection comprising a body of law, the one or more data structures organizing the information collection and facilitating computer access from the computer readable medium of information relating to the body of law, the one or more data structures including temporal information relating to the information collection, the encoded information collection comprising:

a plurality of lower-level structured documents ~~defining a body of law;~~

an association of each of a plurality of parts of the body of law comprising a plurality of atomic parts, each atomic part being regarded for at least one purpose as indivisible, such that each atomic part is stored in association with and temporal information comprising one or more dates indicating the legal applicability of the respective atomic part, wherein a plurality of the parts of the body of law comprises different versions of the same part of the body of law, the temporal information being different for different versions of the same part of the body of law; and each atomic part and the temporal information associated therewith are included together in a separate lower level structured document; and

each lower level structured document including a different part or different version of the same part of the body of law and including the associated temporal information; and

at least one higher level structured document, each lower level structured document being including information relating to at least one lower level structured document that is in a hierarchical relationship with a at least one higher level structured document[[:]] which higher level structured document includes information relating to the respective lower level structured document.

~~wherein a plurality of the atomic parts of the body of law comprises different versions of the same atomic part of the body of law, each having different temporal information associated therewith; and~~

~~at least one higher level structured document has information relating to the plurality of lower level structured documents that comprises different versions of the same atomic part of the body of law and the respective temporal information associated therewith.~~

31. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium encoded with one or more data structures representing to represent an information collection related to a common subject, the one or more data structures organizing the information collection and facilitating computer access from the computer readable medium of information relating to the common subject, the one or more data structures, including temporal information relating to the information collection, the encoded information collection comprising:

a plurality of lower level structured documents ~~related to a common subject;~~

an association of each of a plurality of parts of the common subject and which comprises a plurality of interrelated topics, and comprising a plurality of atomic parts, each atomic part comprising information that pertains to the common subject matter and being regarded for at least one purpose as indivisible, that are stored in association with temporal information comprising at least one date indicating a state or status with respect to time of the respective atomic part of the common subject, wherein a plurality of the parts of the common subject comprises different versions of the same part of the common subject, the temporal information being different for different versions of the same part of the common subject; each atomic part of the common subject and the temporal information associated therewith being included in a separate lower level structured document; and

each lower level structured document including a different part or different version of the same part of the common subject and including the associated temporal information; and

at least one higher level structured document, each lower level structured document being including information relating to at least one lower level structured document that is in a hierarchical relationship with a at least one higher level structured document[[]] which higher level structured document includes information relating to the respective lower level structured document.

~~wherein a plurality of atomic parts comprises different versions of the same atomic part that have different temporal information associated respectively therewith; and at least one higher level structured document has information relating to a plurality of lower level structured documents that each includes a different version of the same atomic part and the temporal information associated therewith.~~

32. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium according to claim 30 or 31, wherein at least one higher level structured document includes a table of contents (TOC) including a reference to each lower level structured document associated therewith.

33. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 32, wherein ~~the information collection comprises~~ at least one higher level structured document includes including a TOC having a reference to at least one other higher level structured document hierarchically related to the at least one higher level structured document in an ancestral/descendant relationship.

34. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 32, wherein ~~the information collection comprises~~ at least one higher level structured document includes including a TOC having a reference to at least one other higher level structured document and to each lower level structured document referenced by the at least one other higher level structured document, the at least one higher level structured document being hierarchically related in an ancestral/descendant relationship with the at least one other higher level structured document, and each of the lower level structured documents.

35. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 30 or 31, wherein ~~the information collection comprises~~ at least one structured document indicates ~~indicating~~ differences between different versions of the same atomic part.

36. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium encoded with one or more data structures representing to represent an information collection comprising a body of law, the one or more data structures organizing the information collection and facilitating computer access from the computer readable medium of information relating to the body of law, the one or more data structures, the encoded information collection comprising:

~~a body of law comprising a plurality of unique atomic parts, each atomic part being regarded for at least one purpose as indivisible and stored in association with a date range indicating the legal applicability of that atomic part; and~~

a hierarchical arrangement of headings in at least one [[a]] table of contents (TOC) and parts of the body of law, having a plurality of headings each heading identifying of which identifies one or more atomic parts of the body of law;

an association of temporal information comprising one or more dates indicating the legal applicability of a respective part of the body of law and the respective part of the body of law;

an association of a plurality of parts of the body of law that are different versions of each other and have different temporal information associated therewith and at least one heading of a TOC; and

an association of the temporal information relating to each part and version of the body of law and each heading with which the respective part or version is associated.

~~that are associated therewith, at least one heading being associated with a plurality of atomic parts that are different versions of each other and have different date ranges associated therewith, and each atomic part of the body of law being associated with at least one heading.~~

37. (Cancelled).

38. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 36, wherein the ~~information collection provides~~ one or more data structures enable computer access to a an atomic part of the body of law in response to a request by a computer including at least a date of the one or more dates encompassed by the date range associated with that part.

39. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 36, wherein the one or more data structures include ~~each atomic part of the body of law and date range associated therewith are included in~~ a structured document for and including each different part of the body of law.

40. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 39, wherein each TOC is included in a structured document having a reference to each other structured document including a ~~having an atomic~~ part of the body of law referenced in a heading of that TOC.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Currently Amended) An information storage and retrieval system, comprising:
a computer system including a computer display device, a computer input device and a computer-readable medium, the computer system being coupled to access data stored on the computer-readable medium;

the medium being encoded with one or more data structures representing an information collection comprising a body of law, the one or more data structures organizing the information collection and facilitating access by the computer system of information from the medium relating to the body of law, the one or more data structures comprising:

an association of each part of the body of law, including different versions thereof, and at least one topic comprising a hierarchical arrangement of topics of the body of law and parts of the body of law in which each part of the body of law and any different version thereof and the associated at least one topic are hierarchically associated; and

an association of temporal information comprising one or more dates indicating the legal applicability of a respective part and the legal applicability of any different version thereof and the respective part of the body of law or respective different version thereof;

~~the medium storing uniquely identifiable parts of a body of law in association with temporal information, comprising one or more dates indicating the legal applicability of the respective part, a plurality of the parts being different versions of each other and having different temporal information associated therewith;~~

the computer system being programmed to access the medium and cause to be displayed ~~display~~ on the computer display device, in response to input from the computer input device, the identity of at least two parts of the body of law that are different versions of each other together with temporal information associated therewith, and in response to input from the computer input device selecting a to display that part whose displayed identity is selected with the computer input device to access the medium and cause that part whose identity was selected to be displayed on the display device.

47. (Currently Amended) An information storage and retrieval system, comprising:
a computer system including a computer display device, a computer input device and a computer-readable medium, the computer system being coupled to access data stored on the computer-readable medium;

the medium being encoded with one or more data structures representing an information collection comprising a body of law, the one or more data structures organizing the information collection and facilitating access by the computer system of information from the medium relating to the body of law, the one or more data structures comprising:

a hierarchical arrangement of headings in at least one table of contents (TOC) and parts of the body of law, each heading identifying one or more parts of the body of law;

an association of temporal information comprising one or more dates indicating the legal applicability of a respective part of the body of law and the respective part of the body of law;
and

an association of a plurality of parts of the body of law that are different versions of each other and have different temporal information associated therewith and at least one heading of a TOC;

~~the medium storing uniquely identifiable parts of a body of law and a table of contents (TOC) having headings which describe parts of the body of law, wherein each part is associated with temporal information indicating the legal applicability of the respective part, a plurality of parts being different versions of each other and having different temporal information associated therewith;~~

the computer system being programmed to access the medium and cause to be displayed on the computer display device, in response to input from the computer input device, display on the computer display device headings at least one heading, at least one part associated with the at least one heading and temporal information,[[;]] and the computer system being programmed to cause to be displayeddisplay on the computer display device a displayed part selected with the computer input device that has temporal information associated therewith that encompasses the displayed temporal information.

48. (Currently Amended) An information storage and retrieval system, comprising:
a computer system including a computer display device; and
the computer readable medium of claim 2, 30 or 31;
the computer system being programmed to display on the display device a part of the ~~body of law~~ having temporal information that encompasses a date forming at least part of a request input to the computer system.

49. (Currently Amended) An information storage and retrieval system, comprising:
a computer system including a computer display device; and
the computer readable medium of claim 4; ~~and~~
the computer system being programmed to control visibility on the display device of the units of the body of law based on whether temporal information associated with a respective unit encompasses a date forming at least part of a request input to the computer system.

50. (Currently Amended) A method of accessing an information collection stored on a computer readable medium using a computer coupled to access the information collection, ~~the information collection comprising parts of a body of law that are stored in association with temporal information comprising one or more dates indicating the legal applicability of the respective part of the body of law, a plurality of parts of the body of law that being different versions of each other and having different temporal information associated therewith, the method comprising;~~ the medium being encoded with one or more data structures representing an information collection comprising a body of law, the one or more data structures organizing the information collection and facilitating access by the computer system of information from the medium relating to the body of law, the one or more data structures comprising:

an association of each part of the body of law, including different versions thereof, and at least one topic comprising a hierarchical arrangement of topics of the body of law and parts of the body of law in which each part of the body of law and any different version thereof and the associated at least one topic are hierarchically associated; and

an association of temporal information comprising one or more dates indicating the legal applicability of a respective part and the legal applicability of any different version thereof and the respective part of the body of law or respective different version thereof;

the method comprising:

displaying on a computer display device coupled to the computer dates in association with information identifying at least two parts that are different versions of each other; and

displaying on the computer display device that part of the body of law that is selected with a computer input device coupled to the computer.

51. (Currently Amended) A method of accessing an information collection stored on a computer readable medium using a computer coupled to access the information collection, ~~the information collection comprising parts of a body of law that are stored in association with temporal information comprising one or more dates indicating the legal applicability of the respective part of the body of law, a plurality of parts of the body of law being different versions of each other and having different temporal information associated therewith, the method comprising;~~ the medium being encoded with one or more data structures representing an information collection comprising a body of law, the one or more data structures organizing the information collection and facilitating access by the computer system of information from the medium relating to the body of law, the one or more data structures comprising:

an association of each part of the body of law, including different versions thereof, and at least one topic comprising a hierarchical arrangement of topics of the body of law and parts of the body of law in which each part of the body of law and any different version thereof and the associated at least one topic are hierarchically associated; and

an association of temporal information comprising one or more dates indicating the legal applicability of a respective part and the legal applicability of any different version thereof and the respective part of the body of law or respective different version thereof;

the method comprising:

inputting to the computer using a computer input device the identity of a part of the body of law and a date; and

in response thereto, the computer causing the computer display device to display that part whose identity was input to the computer and which has temporal information encompassing the inputted date.

52. (Original) A method according to claim 50 or 51, wherein the information collection includes a table of contents (TOC) having headings with which one or more parts of the body of law are associated, each heading being associated with temporal information indicating the applicability of parts associated with the respective heading, the method comprising:

displaying on the computer display device a heading and the temporal information associated therewith;

inputting to the computer using a computer input device a selection of displayed temporal information associated with a heading; and

in response thereto, displaying on the computer display device the part of the body of law in the displayed heading associated with the temporal information that is selected using the computer input device.

53. (Currently Amended) A method of providing the one or more data structures ~~information collection~~ of claim 2 ~~or~~ 4 comprising:

associating each information unit with applicable temporal information;

organizing the information units into topical units at least one of which includes the plurality of information units having different versions of the same part of the body of law; and

configuring the one or more data structures ~~information collection~~ to provide access by a computer, in response to at least one request input to the computer identifying a topical unit and a date, to an information unit of the identified topical unit having temporal information associated therewith that encompasses the date.

54. (Currently Amended) A method of providing the one or more data structures ~~information collection~~ of claim 30, comprising:

associating each part of the body of law with applicable temporal information;

including each part of the body of law and its associated temporal information into a lower level structured document;

associating applicable lower level structured documents with a higher level structured document;

including in each higher level document information relating to each lower level document associated therewith; and

configuring the one or more data structures ~~information collection~~ to provide access by a computer, in response to at least one request input to the computer identifying a part of the body of law and a date, to a structured document including the identified part and temporal information associated therewith that encompasses the date.

55. (Cancelled)

56. (New) A method for encoding a computer readable medium with one or more data structures representing an information collection comprising a body of law, the one or more data structures organizing the information collection and facilitating computer access from the computer readable medium of information relating to the body of law, the body of law comprising a plurality of topics and a plurality of parts, including parts that are different versions of each other, the method comprising creating in the one or more data structures:

an association of each part of the body of law, including different versions thereof, and at least one topic in a hierarchical arrangement of topics of the body of law and parts of the body of law in which each part of the body of law and any different version thereof and the associated at least one topic are hierarchically associated;

an association of temporal information comprising one or more dates indicating the legal applicability of a respective part and the legal applicability of any different version thereof and the respective part of the body of law or respective different version thereof; and

an association of information relating to each part or version of the body of law and the at least one topic with which the respective part or version is associated;

the method comprising storing the one or more data structures in the computer readable medium.

57. (New) A method for encoding a computer readable medium with one or more data structures representing an information collection comprising a body of law, the one or more data structures organizing the information collection and facilitating computer access from the computer readable medium of information relating to the body of law, the method comprising creating in the one or more data structures:

one or more unique information units, each including at least one part of the body of law including any different version of the at least one part, and a plurality of topical units, each comprising at least one topic;

an association of each topical unit and the at least one information unit, each topical unit including information relating to the at least one information unit associated therewith; and

an association of temporal information comprising one or more dates indicating the legal applicability of each part of the body of law and different version thereof and the respective information unit in which the respective part and any different version thereof are included;

the method comprising storing the one or more data structures in the computer readable medium.

58. (New) A computer readable medium according to claim 2, wherein the information relating to each part of the body of law associated with at least one topic comprises the temporal information.

59. (New) A computer readable medium according to claim 4, wherein the information relating to each information unit associated with at least one topical unit comprises the temporal information.

60. (New) A computer readable medium according to claim 2, wherein the association of the information relating to each part of the body of law and at least one topic comprises the at least one topic including such information.

61. (New) A computer readable medium according to claim 4, wherein the association of the information relating to each information unit and at least one topical unit comprises the at least one topical unit including such information.